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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/668,719	09/23/2003	Jeffrey Daniel Williams	14270	2444

7590 02/26/2007
Sally J. Brown
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Ogden, UT 84405

EXAMINER

CULBRETH, ERIC D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3616

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	02/26/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/668,719	Applicant(s) WILLIAMS, JEFFREY DANIEL	
	Examiner Eric Culbreth	Art Unit 3616	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 January 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-39 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 28-39 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
2. Claims 1, 4-6, 8-11, 14-16 and 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rose US006588793B2 (newly cited) in view of Spencer et al US005687987, of record.

Rose discloses an airbag module comprising an inflator 26, an airbag cushion with a cushion throat, windshield face, occupant face, inboard face and outboard face (Figure 1B), and a one-piece clamshell diffuser 64 forming an inflator housing (note Figure 4, the left end of diffuser 64, where the sleeve is one piece). The housing forms an inflator sleeve that receives and closes about the inflator in Figure 4. Spencer et al discloses a diffuser sleeve 83 on inflator sleeve 82, the diffuser sleeve formed of first and second sleeve walls 84. The outlet port(s) 44 of the inflator 40 extends into the inflator sleeve 83 such that the diffuser sleeve directs inflation gas produced by the inflator. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Rose to include a diffuser sleeve with first and second sleeve walls such as taught by Spencer et al in order to allow the diffuser to direct gas (see Rose, the primary reference, at column 11, lines 14-17, where the primary reference teaches the diffuser may be used to direct gas). In the combination the sleeve walls would contact each other on the interior of the cushion in keeping with

Rose's diffuser walls (claims 1 and 11). The cushion throat of Rose is configured to be coupled to the inflator housing (i.e., when guideposts 76 attach the airbag to the housing 83 by blocking it)(claims 4 and 14). In the combination Spencer et al teaches the inflator housing having cushion attachments (88, pegs 90) (claims 5-6 and 15-16). The diffuser sleeve in the combination is formed by closing the clamshell inflator housing, and fasteners 76 in Rose et al maintain the clamshell housing in a closed position (claims 8-9 and 18-19). Regarding claims 10 and 20, the method of folding is an intermediate process step which is immaterial to the final module product; Rose discloses the structure as claimed.

3. Claims 2-3, 12-13 and 21-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rose in view of Spencer et al as applied to claims 1 and 11 above, and further in view of Taguchi et al US005951038A, of record.


It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Rose and Spencer et al above to include loop diffuser comprising a secondary sleeve internal of the cushion throat having at least one diffuser orifice as taught by Taguchi et al's inner bag 22 in order to direct gas as desired, upward and downward as disclosed in Taguchi et al's abstract. The loop diffuser in the combination has a windshield facing panel and occupant facing panel attached to form a closed sleeve (Figure 2B), with each panel having a diffuser orifice 22b, 22a in Figure 3.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eric Culbreth whose telephone number is 571/272-6668. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, 9:00-6:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paul Dickson can be reached on 571/272-6669. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Eric Culbreth
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3616